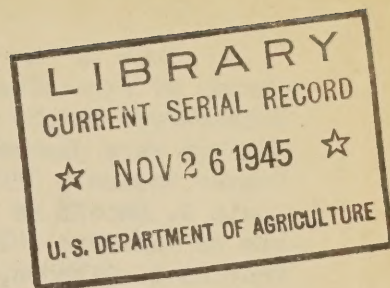


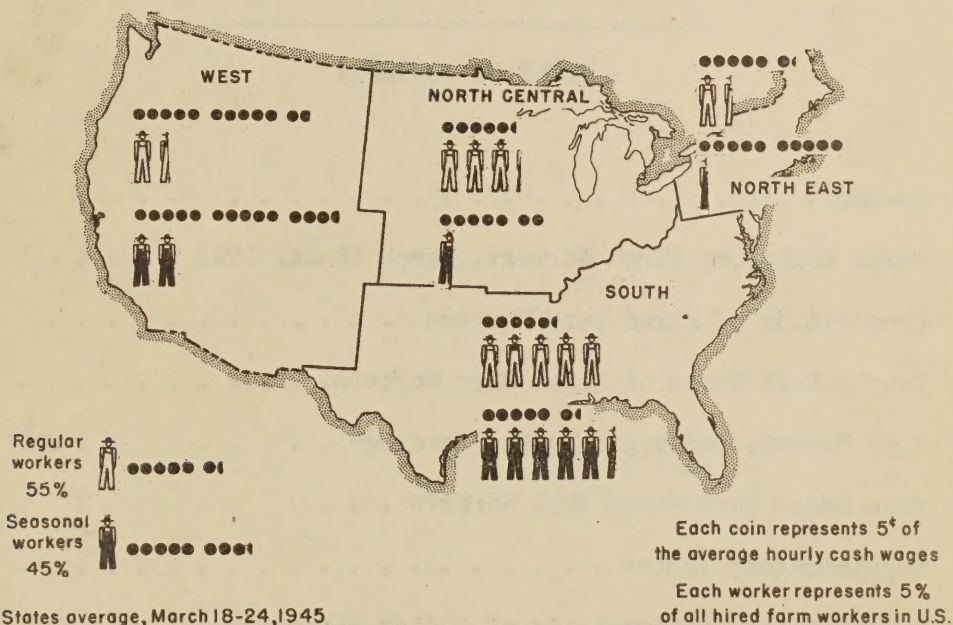
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



WAGES AND WAGE RATES *of* HIRED FARM WORKERS

United States and Major Regions,
March 1945



SURVEY OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE, REPORT NUMBER 4
October 1945
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PREFATORY NOTE

This is the fourth of a series of reports to be issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presenting results secured from new enumerative sample surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned and conducted under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber, Office of the Chief, by a Bureau-wide Committee with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman. Members of the Wage Project Committee are as follows: Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman, Barbara B. Reagan. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in conducting the field operations of the survey.

The surveys include collection of information on wages and wage rates of all workers hired on a national sample of 20,000 farms during three specified weeks during the year. This report presents the information obtained in the first of the national surveys which covered the third week of March 1945. In addition to reports on the national surveys, other reports are being issued on wages of seasonal labor in special crop areas of various States.

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Prepared by Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF HIRED FARM WORKERS, UNITED STATES AND
MAJOR REGIONS, MARCH 18-24, 1945

Summary

During the third week of March, 715,000 farms in the United States were employing a total of 1,633,000 hired farm workers, according to a nation-wide enumerative sample survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This was the first of three national surveys made in 1945 to obtain information on wages and wage rates of agricultural labor. More than four-fifths of the farms with hired labor had only one or two hired workers during the week, although these farms had less than half of the total number of hired workers employed.

Hired farm workers received an average of 35 cents an hour in cash wages in the week of March 18-24, 1945. Hourly wages were generally higher on the larger farms which customarily use more hired labor. On farms with a wage bill of less than \$500 in the preceding year only 24 cents per hour was paid to hired workers during the week covered by the survey, while on farms where \$10,000 or more had been paid for labor in the preceding year, 49 cents per hour was paid.

Over 90 percent of the hired farm workers in March were males. In every region except the West, the hourly cash wages of the relatively small number of female workers equaled or exceeded the average for males. The reason for this was that a greater proportion of the women were doing types of work paid at hourly or piece rates which generally yield higher earnings than other rates.

In the South, more than half of the hired farm workers were nonwhite, compared with about 5 percent in the other regions of the country. White workers averaged 2 cents an hour more in cash wages than nonwhite workers in the South, but in every other region the average for nonwhite workers was higher than for white workers.

Among hired men not employed in crews, those aged 35 to 44 had the highest hourly cash wages. Wages paid men between the ages of 45 and 64 were next highest, and were above those paid men aged 18 to 34 in every region. Men over 65 averaged wages 80 percent as high as those aged 35 to 44; youths under 18 averaged a little less than men 65 and over.

Over half of the hired workers on the farms surveyed in March were regular hands whom the farmer expected to employ for approximately 6 months or more during the year. These 895,000 workers were receiving lower hourly cash wages than workers hired for shorter periods. For the United States as a whole, the "regular" farm hand averaged 32 cents cash wages an hour, while hired "seasonal" workers employed for shorter periods averaged 41 cents an hour. Differences within some of the major regions were greater than these national averages, because the national average for seasonal workers was more affected by the low wage level in the South. The South had 63 percent of the seasonal workers, but only 45 percent of the regular hired workers. In the Northeastern States, for example, regular workers averaged only 31 cents in cash wages per hour, while other hired farm workers were paid an average of 50 cents an hour.

Regular hired hands worked more hours per day and more days per week on one farm than did the seasonal workers. They averaged 56 hours of work per week, compared with only 32 hours work per week on one farm for seasonal workers. This steadier employment more than offset the lower hourly wages paid regular workers. Regular hired farm workers averaged \$18.00 cash wages for the week of March 18-24, compared with \$13.00 for all seasonal workers, and only \$8.80 for those who were to be employed less than 3 months of the year on the reporting farm.

Regular hired farm hands had much more than seasonal workers in the way of items furnished without charge by the farmer, as well as the assurance of a longer period of employment to offset their lower hourly cash wages. About 30 percent of all regular hired hands received meals and either housing or lodging in addition to cash wages. An additional 49 percent had housing furnished by the farmer free of charge. In contrast only 8 percent of the workers hired for shorter periods were given both meals and housing or lodging without charge, while another 25 percent were given some type of housing without meals.

Hired farm workers were employed on the reporting farm during the third week of March for an average of 45 hours. In the northern States, the average number of hours worked per week by hired farm workers was 58. The average weekly cash wages of those workers was approximately \$16 for the country as a whole. Only 31 percent of all male workers not hired in crews earned weekly cash wages on one farm of \$20 or more a week. Less than 5 percent of those workers received cash wages amounting to as much as \$40 for the week.

Month rates paid hired farm workers in March averaged \$99.30 for workers not furnished meals and \$67.10 for those provided 2 or more meals per day in addition to cash wages. When allowance is made for the different time periods involved, day hands were paid the lowest unit-time rate of any hired workers in every region except the Northeast. The average day rate for workers not furnished meals was \$2.65 for the country as a whole. On the other hand, hired farm workers paid hourly rates, which averaged 57 cents an hour for the United States, received the highest basic rates of pay of all hired workers paid rates on a time basis.

Since 1940, great changes have been made in American agriculture in response to the wartime situation of greater demand for agricultural products from commercial farms and greater demand for manpower for industry and the armed forces. The net result was a reduction in the number of hired farm workers and a greater concentration of these on the larger farms in the country. In March 1940, only 48 percent of the hired farm workers were employed by farmers with 3 or more hired workers, while in March 1945, the percentage had increased to 56 percent. The two regions with greatest concentrations of hired workers on relatively few farms, the South and West, showed a marked increase in proportion of hired workers employed on farms which hired 3 or more workers. The North Central and Northeastern States had changes in the other direction, partly as a result of greater substitution of machinery for men. The percentage of all hired workers employed on farms with only one or two hired workers increased from 56 percent to 63 percent in the Northeast, and from 74 percent to 78 percent in the North Central States.

1. FARMS EMPLOYING HIRED WORKERS, MARCH 18-24, 1945

The first national enumerative sample survey of farm wages and wage rates made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics showed that 715,000 farms in the United States were employing 1,633,000 hired workers during the week of March 18-24, 1945 (table 1). Only about one-eighth of the 20,000 farms surveyed employed one or more hired workers for a part or all of the week. Although the number of farms using hired labor and the number of laborers hired per farm increases during the year as the season progresses, less than half of the country's farmers hire any labor at all during the course of the year.

In each major region of the country the number of farms reporting hired labor for a week in the latter part of March has decreased since the March 1940 week, for which the Census of Agriculture provided information. The decrease was smallest in the West, and largest in the South. More noticeable changes have occurred in the regional distribution of hired farm workers than of farms reporting hired labor during the 5 years preceding March 1945, which covered the period of preparation for national defense and almost all of the war. The North Central States, which include the Corn Belt and much of the major wheat producing areas, showed the most marked reduction in the use of hired labor. Farmers in these States were employing only one-fifth of the Nation's hired farm workers in March 1945 as compared with one-fourth in March 1940. In contrast, the Western States, where high wartime production goals had been set for crops that require much hand labor, showed an actual increase in the number of hired farm laborers since 1940, and their proportion of the Nation's total hired workers increased markedly.

The average number of hired workers on the farms which reported hired labor increased, from 2.7 hired workers per farm to 3.6 in the West, and from 2.2 to 2.8 in the South. In the Northeast and North Central regions there were small decreases in the average number of hired workers per farm, but these were not great enough to offset the effect of the West and the South on the national average. For the United States as a whole, the number of hired workers per farm reporting hired labor increased from 2.0 in March 1940 to 2.3 in March 1945. However, the decrease in the number of farms reporting workers was great enough to mean a net reduction in the total number of hired workers.

Averages for all farms reporting hired labor do not reveal the concentration of a great number of hired workers on a relatively small number of farms. Two-thirds of the 715,000 farms with hired labor in the third week of March 1945 had only one hired worker employed, and an additional sixth had only two hired workers (table 2). The remaining 123,000 farms, each of which had 3 or more hired workers, were only 17 percent of all farms reporting hired labor, but they employed 56 percent of all hired workers.

Comparisons with 1940 indicate that the war years have resulted in increased concentration of hired labor on farms employing 3 or more hired workers in one week. In 1940, of all hired workers during the last week of March, 48 percent were working on farms which had 3 or more hired workers, but by 1945 the corresponding percentage was 56 percent. However, these overall national figures reflect

Table 1.-Distribution of farms reporting hired labor and of hired farm workers by major regions of the United States, March 1945 and March 1940

Area	Farms with hired labor				Hired farm workers			
	March 18-24, 1945		March 24-30, 1940		March 18-24, 1945		March 24-30, 1945	
	Number	:Percent:	Number	:Percent:	Number	:Percent:	Number	:Percent:
United States	715,000	100.0	893,000	100.0	1,633,000	100.0	1,753,000	100.0
Northeast	84,000	11.7	104,000	11.6	147,000	9.0	193,000	11.0
North Central	242,000	33.9	303,000	33.9	330,000	20.2	441,000	25.2
South	308,000	43.1	398,000	44.6	863,000	52.9	884,000	50.4
West	81,000	11.3	88,000	9.9	293,000	17.9	235,000	13.4

Data for 1940 from 1940 Census of Agriculture; estimates for 1945 based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. See appendix A for reliability of 1945 estimates and appendix B for comparability of 1940 and 1945 figures. Throughout this report estimates are presented for four major regions which group the States as follows:

NORTHEAST

New England	Middle Atlantic
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Maine
N. H.
Vermont
Mass.
R. I.
Conn.

Penn.
N. Y.
N. J.

Ohio
Ind.
Ill.
Mich.
Wisc.

Minn.
Iowa
Missouri
N. Dak.
S. Dak.
Nebr.
Kans.

NORTH CENTRAL

East North Central	West North Central
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Del.
Md.
Va.
W. Va.
N. Car.
S. Car.
Ga.
Fla.

Kentucky
Tenn.
Ala.
Miss.

SOUTH

South Atlantic	East South Central	West South Central
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Ark.
La.
Okla.
Tex.

Mont.
Idaho
Wyo.
Colo.
N. Mex.
Ariz.
Utah
Nev.

WEST

Mountain	Pacific
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Wash.
Ore.
Calif.

Table 2.—Distribution of farms reporting hired labor and of hired farm workers, by number of workers employed, United States and major regions, March 1945 and March 1940

Area and number of hired workers reported	Farms with hired labor				Hired farm workers			
	March 18-24, 1945		March 24-30, 1940		March 18-24, 1945		March 24-30, 1940	
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
	(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)	
<u>United States</u>								
All farms reporting								
hired labor	715	100.0	893	100.0	1,633	100.0	1,753	100.0
1 hired worker	472	66.0	610	68.3	472	28.9	610	34.8
2 hired workers	120	16.8	152	17.0	240	14.7	304	17.3
3 or more hired workers	123	17.2	131	14.7	921	56.4	839	47.9
<u>Northeast</u>								
All farms reporting								
hired labor	84	100.0	104	100.0	147	100.0	193	100.0
1 hired worker	54	64.3	69	66.4	54	36.7	69	35.8
2 hired workers	19	22.6	20	19.2	38	25.9	40	20.7
3 or more hired workers	11	13.1	15	14.4	55	37.4	84	43.5
<u>North Central</u>								
All farms reporting								
hired labor	242	100.0	303	100.0	330	100.0	441	100.0
1 hired worker	195	80.6	236	77.9	195	59.1	236	53.5
2 hired workers	31	12.8	44	14.5	62	18.8	88	20.0
3 or more hired workers	16	6.6	23	7.6	73	22.1	117	26.5
<u>South</u>								
All farms reporting								
hired labor	308	100.0	398	100.0	863	100.0	884	100.0
1 hired worker	179	58.1	253	63.6	179	20.7	253	28.6
2 hired workers	55	17.9	72	18.1	110	12.8	144	16.3
3 or more hired workers	74	24.0	73	18.3	574	66.5	487	55.1
<u>West</u>								
All farms reporting								
hired labor	81	100.0	88	100.0	293	100.0	235	100.0
1 hired worker	44	54.3	52	59.1	44	15.0	52	22.1
2 hired workers	15	18.5	16	18.2	30	10.2	32	13.6
3 or more hired workers	22	27.2	20	22.7	219	74.8	151	64.3

Data for 1940 from 1940 Census of Agriculture; estimates for 1945 based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. See Appendix B for comparability of 1940 and 1945 figures.

the net result of regional changes in opposite directions. In the two regions which already had the greatest concentration of workers on a relatively few farms, the proportions of workers employed on farms with 3 or more workers increased from 55 to 66 percent in the South and from 64 to 75 percent in the West. In the two regions with the least concentration in 1940, the Northeast and North Central, the changes were in the other direction. Thus, the changes which took place in wartime have widened regional differences in the matter of distribution of hired labor among farmer-employers, at least among those who hired labor in the spring.

The seasonality of labor needs in agriculture means that the number of workers employed on a farm in any one week may not fairly represent the importance of hired labor on that farm during the course of a year. Farm operators who reported hired labor in the March survey were also asked to report on their total cash expenditure for wages during the preceding year. Although certain inaccuracies of memory are to be expected when records of wage payments had not been kept, the data provided a satisfactory basis for grouping the farms according to the amount of hired labor used.

Almost half of the hired farm workers in March 1945 (44 percent) were employed on farms which spent \$2,000 or more in cash wages to hired labor during the preceding year (table 3). At March 1945 wage rates \$2,000 would have meant more than two man-years of hired labor in every region except the West. ^{1/} The farms employing these workers are definitely not "family size" farms, since a majority of the annual labor input was by hired workers and since many of these farms are operated entirely by hired labor. An additional third of the hired workers in March 1945 were on farms with wage expenditures of between \$500 and \$2,000 in the previous year. This group includes many family-commercial farms operated primarily by family labor but also using hired labor for an important part of their labor requirements. The group also includes some farms where practically all of the labor input is by hired workers. The remaining 23 percent of the hired workers in March 1945 were employed on farms which could definitely be classified as family-operated farms, since their wage expenditures of less than \$500 during the preceding year were considerably less than the cost of one man-year of hired labor.

In the West, where farm labor costs are highest and where concentration of hired workers on large farms is greatest, 83 percent of the hired workers in March 1945 were employed on farms which had wage expenditures of \$2,000 or more in the preceding year. These farms made up two-thirds of all farms hiring labor during the third week of March in the West. By way of contrast, in the North Central States only 25 percent of the hired workers were on farms with wage expenditures of \$2,000 or more in the previous year, and such farms were only 13 percent of all farms reporting hired labor in March 1945.

^{1/} At March 1945 cash wage costs per man-day of hired farm labor, \$2,000 would have meant 3.1 man-years of hired labor in the South, 2.8 man-years in the North Central, 2.4 man-years in the Northeast, and 1.6 in the West, if a man-year is assumed to include 250 days actually worked.

Table 3.-Percentage distribution of farms reporting wage expenditures for 1944 ^{1/} and of their hired farm workers in March 1945, by total cash wage expenditures in 1944, United States and major regions

	United States				Northeast				North Central				South				West			
	: Farms		: Hired		: Farms		: Hired		: Farms		: Hired		: Farms		: Hired		: Farms		: Hired	
	: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers		: workers	
	: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March		: in March	
	: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945		: 1945	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Farms reporting some wage expenditures ^{2/}	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1 - 499	34.1	22.9	17.1	11.2	29.6	24.9	50.1	29.9	8.1	3.9										
500 - 1,999	43.4	33.5	51.3	40.0	57.4	50.4	33.8	29.8	24.9	13.3										
2,000 - 9,999	19.6	29.8	28.8	37.9	11.9	19.0	14.5	29.0	52.8	44.6										
10,000 and over	2.9	13.8	2.8	10.9	1.1	5.7	1.6	11.3	14.2	38.2										

^{1/} Only farm operators reporting hired workers employed during March 18-24, 1945 were asked to report on their cash wage expenditures in 1944.

^{2/} These farms are only a small proportion of all farms, although they include most of the farms hiring labor during the week of March 18-24, 1945.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The survey indicated marked differences between the group of farms which had hired labor in the third week of March 1945 and those without hired labor. Farms with hired labor were of larger average size. For the United States as a whole, 71 percent of all farms reporting hired labor had 100 acres or more of land in the farm, while only 39 percent of the farms without hired labor were this large (table 4). Nearly one-half (46 percent) of the farms with hired labor were farms of 180 acres or more, while less than one-fifth of the other farms had this much land. Farms with 100 acres or more were relatively more frequent in the case of farms with hired labor than in the case of farms without hired labor, in every region except the North Central States. In that region the same relation held for farms with 180 acres or more.

The group of farm operators with hired laborers during the week of March 18-24, 1945 included a larger proportion of part-owners and smaller proportions of "full-owners" and tenants than the group without hired workers. The proportion of part-owners among hiring farms was much larger than among non-hiring farms in every region. Twenty-two percent of farm operators employing hired workers were part-owners, who were operating some rented land in addition to that owned, while only 10 percent of the operators without hired labor were part-owners (table 5). On the other hand, in every region except the South, a substantially smaller proportion of the operators hiring labor were full-owners. Although the traditional interpretation of the agricultural ladder has the part-owner status as the last rung before reaching full-owner status, the results confirm other indications that part-owners carry on a larger scale of operations than the average for all owners.

2. COMPOSITION OF HIRED FARM WORKERS, MARCH 18-24, 1945

In the summer and fall, women and children form an important part of the farm working force, but in March hired farm workers are chiefly adult men. Ninety-five percent or more of hired workers in March 1945 were males in every region except the South (table 6). Eighty-three percent of the 145,000 female hired farm workers were in the South. Children under 14 made up only about 1 percent of all hired workers, and practically all of these were in the South.

Except in the South, less than 6 percent of the hired farm workers in each region were nonwhite, but the great number of Southern Negro workers brought the national figure to 30 percent nonwhite. During the past 5 years, there appears to have been a greater decrease among white than among nonwhite hired farm workers. The most nearly comparable data by race from the 1940 Population Census show that only 25 percent of the hired farm workers were nonwhite in March 1940.

More than one-fourth (28 percent) of all the Nation's hired farm workers in March 1945 were nonwhite workers on Southern farms. Among this group of nearly a half million workers, females made up 18 percent, in contrast to only 5 percent among the rest of the Nation's hired farm workers. For this reason, certain data on age composition and wage differentials are shown for males only, since there were too few female hired workers in regions other than the South to afford a valid basis for detailed estimates.

Table 4.—Percentage distribution of farms with and without hired workers, by size of farm, United States and major regions, March 1945

Size of farm	United States				Northeast				North Central				South				West			
	Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms		Farms	
	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without
	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired	hired
	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 50 acres	14.0	39.4	13.7	35.4	3.7	19.0	20.3	51.2	20.7	52.4										
50 - 99	14.9	21.9	17.0	27.6	12.9	21.8	15.6	22.1	15.9	16.1										
100 - 139	11.4	10.6	18.8	16.6	11.7	13.7	9.9	8.6	8.7	5.6										
140 - 179	13.4	10.4	13.2	10.2	16.0	16.8	12.4	7.1	9.8	5.8										
180 - 259	15.3	7.9	18.2	6.7	21.1	13.4	11.6	5.0	8.7	4.5										
260 - 499	17.9	6.6	16.2	3.0	22.9	11.2	15.3	4.2	14.4	5.5										
500 and over	13.1	3.2	2.9	.5	11.7	4.1	14.9	1.8	21.8	10.1										

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 5.--Percentage distribution of farms with and without hired workers, by tenure of farm operator, United States and major regions, March 1945

Tenure of farm operator <u>1/</u>	United States:		Northeast:		North Central:		South:		West:	
	Farms:	Percent	Farms:	Percent	Farms:	Percent	Farms:	Percent	Farms:	Percent
	with		with		with		with		with	
	without		without		without		without		without	
	hired		hired		hired		hired		hired	
	workers:		workers:		workers:		workers:		workers:	
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Total <u>2/</u>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full owner	57.2	59.4	72.9	89.6	50.5	58.7	58.1	53.0	57.0	74.5
Part owner	22.1	10.4	23.6	6.7	26.9	14.8	17.3	7.6	25.1	12.9
Tenant	20.7	30.2	3.5	3.7	22.6	26.5	24.6	39.4	17.9	12.6

1/ Consistent with Census usage, the term "full owner" relates to an operator who does not rent any part of the farm he operates, whether or not the farm is mortgaged. A "part owner" is an operator who operates some rented land in addition to that which he owns.

2/ Excluding manager-operated farms; these comprise less than 1 percent of all farms.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 6.-Distribution of hired farm workers by race and sex, United States and major regions, March 1945

Race and sex	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,633,000	100.0	147,000	100.0	330,000	100.0	863,000	100.0	293,000	100.0
Males	1,488,000	91.1	139,000	94.6	322,000	97.6	742,000	85.9	285,000	97.3
Females	145,000	8.9	8,000	5.4	8,000	2.4	121,000	14.1	8,000	2.7
White	1,150,000	70.4	139,000	94.5	327,000	99.1	404,000	46.8	280,000	95.6
Males	1,091,000	66.8	132,000	89.8	319,000	96.7	368,000	42.6	272,000	92.9
Females	59,000	3.6	7,000	4.7	8,000	2.4	36,000	4.2	8,000	2.7
Nonwhite	483,000	29.6	8,000	5.5	3,000	.9	459,000	53.2	13,000	4.4
Males	397,000	24.3	7,000	4.8	3,000	.9	374,000	43.3	13,000	4.4
Females	86,000	5.3	1,000	.7	1/	-	85,000	9.9	1/	-

1/ Estimated as less than 1,000.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Data on approximate age of hired workers were obtained in the March 1945 survey for all hired workers except those employed in crews. Crew workers made up 16 percent of all hired workers in the United States, with the proportion varying from 1 percent in the North Central to 39 percent in the West. More than half (51 percent) of all male hired farm workers not employed in crews were less than 35 years old, with 40 percent between 18 and 34 (table 7). In the last week of March 1940, of all male hired workers, 56 percent were between 18 and 34. Although the decrease in the number of men of military age employed as farm laborers has been marked, there were in March 1945 relatively more males of military age among hired farm workers than in most other occupational groups. The median age of all employed male workers in 1940 was 38.3 years, compared with 30.3 years for hired farm laborers. The median age of all civilian male workers has undoubtedly risen considerably, with the entrance of so many men under 38 into the armed forces. While the median age of the male hired farm workers has also risen, it was still below 35 years in March 1945, and far below the median for all employed male workers.

Men aged 35 to 44 made up 19 percent of employed male farm laborers in March 1945, compared with 15 percent in 1940. The wage data to be presented later indicate that men in this age range are paid the highest wages. They also indicate that men aged 45 to 64, who increased from 20 percent in 1940 to 24 percent in 1945, earned nearly as high wages per hour as men aged 35 to 44, and higher than men aged 18 to 34 in every region of the country. Although these wage differentials may have been affected to some extent by special wartime conditions, they suggest that wartime shifts in age composition may not all have been in the direction of a less able working force.

Because of the great seasonality in agriculture, the duration of employment on one farm during a year may be as little as only a few hours or days for certain harvest workers. On the other hand, many regular workers were employed for a full 12 months. In March 1945, the farmers surveyed reported that they would have 150 days or more of employment for 56 percent of the hired workers they employed during the week covered by the survey, but a lesser amount for the remaining 44 percent (table C). Workers have been classified as "regular" if the farmer indicated he would have as much as 150 days of employment for them during 1945, or "seasonal" if they were to be employed for less time. Regular workers made up a larger proportion of all hired workers in March than in the summer and fall, when many short-time seasonal workers are hired for peak periods. The percentages of regular and seasonal workers varied considerably by regions, both because the agricultural season was farther advanced in the South and the West and because the proportion of regular hired workers is greater on farms in the Northeast and North Central States at all times of the year. Among the seasonal workers 86 percent were employed in the South and the West, while only 59 percent of the regular workers were in those regions.

Farms with relatively large-scale operations employed most of the regular hired laborers in March. Farms which reported wage expenditures of \$2,000 or more in the preceding year were employing 50 percent of all regular hired workers in March 1945, compared with only 34 percent of the seasonal workers (table 9).

Table 7.-Distribution by age of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, United States and major regions, March 1945

Age	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	Number	:Percent	Number	:Percent	Number	:Percent	Number	:Percent	Number	:Percent
Total with age reported ^{1/}	1,252,000	100.0	129,000	100.0	311,000	100.0	647,000	100.0	165,000	100.0
Under 18 years ^{2/}	142,000	11.4	15,000	11.6	28,000	9.0	87,000	13.5	12,000	7.3
18 - 34	501,000	40.0	60,000	46.5	141,000	45.3	248,000	38.3	52,000	31.5
35 - 44	237,000	18.9	19,000	14.7	52,000	16.7	127,000	19.6	39,000	23.6
45 - 64	304,000	24.3	26,000	20.2	72,000	23.2	151,000	23.3	55,000	33.3
65 and over	68,000	5.4	9,000	7.0	18,000	5.8	34,000	5.3	7,000	4.3

^{1/} Information on age was not requested for workers employed in crews. Chiefly for this reason, 236,000 male hired workers included in table 6 are excluded from this table. Workers excluded from these age distributions comprise 15.9 percent of all male workers in the United States, 7.2 percent in the Northeast, 3.4 percent in the North Central, 12.8 percent in the South, and 42.1 percent in the West.

^{2/} Ninety percent of the hired workers under 18 years of age were 14 years old or over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 8.-Distribution of hired farm workers by expected duration of employment in 1945 on reporting farm, United States and major regions, March 1945

Expected duration of : employment on reporting : farms in 1945	United States : : Number : : Percent :	Northeast : : Number : : Percent :	North Central : : Number : : Percent :	South : : Number : : Percent :	West : : Number : : Percent :
Total 1/	1,602,000 100.0	146,000 100.0	319,000 100.0	847,000 100.0	290,000 100.0
Regular - 150 days or more	895,000 55.9	112,000 76.7	251,000 78.7	402,000 47.5	130,000 44.8
Seasonal - less than 150 days	707,000 44.1	34,000 23.3	68,000 21.3	445,000 52.5	160,000 55.2
75 - 149 days	149,000 9.3	8,000 5.5	16,000 5.0	113,000 13.3	12,000 4.1
Less than 75 days	225,000 14.0	11,000 7.5	37,000 11.6	155,000 18.3	22,000 7.6
Days unspecified 2/	333,000 20.8	15,000 10.3	15,000 4.7	177,000 20.9	126,000 43.5

1/ Approximately 30,000 custom workers are excluded from this table.

2/ The great majority of this group are very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews. Although this group includes a small number of workers not in crews for whom the expected duration of employment was not reported, these are also almost wholly seasonal workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 9.--Percentage distribution of regular and seasonal hired farm workers in March 1945 on farms reporting wage expenditures for 1944, by total wage expenditures in 1944, United States.

Wage expenditures of farm in 1944	:All hired: Regular : Seasonal		
	workers, : workers, : workers,		
	: March : March : March		
	: 18-24, : 18-24, : 18-24,		
	: 1945	: 1945 1/	: 1945 2/
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Farms reporting wage expenditures	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1 - 499	22.9	12.3	39.4
500 - 1,999	33.5	37.5	27.1
2,000 - 9,999	29.8	33.7	23.8
10,000 and over	13.8	16.5	9.7

1/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ for 150 days or more during 1945.

2/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ less than 150 days during 1945. This group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported, the majority of them were very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews, for whom this information was not requested.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

For spring farm work, operators of such farms use their regular hired workers, whereas smaller farmers more often have to employ workers for short periods. But the farms with large wage expenditures may show a much higher proportion of all seasonal workers when summer and harvest work is under way.

There are important wage differentials between regular and seasonal hired farm workers, and these vary according to the size of farming operations on the farms employing the workers. The wage information obtained from each of the three national wage surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics made in 1945 include identification of the worker according to expected duration of employment on the reporting farm.

3. HOURLY CASH WAGES OF HIRED FARM WORKERS, MARCH 18-24, 1945

Obtaining a clear picture of wages and wage rates in agriculture is complicated by many factors. Wage rates are paid farm workers on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis, in addition to innumerable types of piece rates for performing some specified operation, such as plowing an acre of corn or picking a hamper of green beans. Rates on a time basis longer than an hour involve varying lengths of work-day and work-week in different parts of the country and for different groups of workers in the same area. Cash wage rates often carry with them housing, meals, food products or other items furnished the hired worker free of charge by the farmer.

In the tables presented in this section, all types of cash wage rates paid have been converted into their equivalent hourly cash wage, on the basis of the time each worker actually spent at hired farm work on the reporting farm, during the survey week. This makes it possible to obtain averages for a given group of hired farm workers whose wage rates were in terms of different time periods or piece units, and thus to compare the average hourly wage of different groups of workers. 2/

Hired farm workers in the United States averaged 35 cents in cash wages per hour worked during the week of March 18-24, 1945 (table 10). Workers in the West averaged 62 cents an hour, while those in the North Central States averaged only 28 cents. Hired farm workers in the South, with a 29 cent average, fared little better than North Central workers, while hired workers on farms in the Northeast averaged 34 cents an hour.

For the United States as a whole, the average cash wage for male farm workers was 3 cents an hour higher than for females, but this was due almost wholly to the fact that a larger proportion of the Nation's female than male hired farm workers are in the South. In the South, the averages for males and females were identical. Female hired workers actually had higher hourly earnings than male workers in the Northeast and North Central States. The West was the only region in which average hourly cash wages of males exceeded those of females.

For the country as a whole, white workers had higher average hourly cash wages than nonwhite workers, but in every region except the South, the difference was in the other direction. Outside of the South, nonwhite workers are most

2/ Two types of average hourly cash wages have been computed for groups of workers; in the first type each worker's hourly cash wage is weighted by the number of hours worked during the week at the specified hourly wage; in the second type each worker's hourly cash wage is weighted equally. Unless otherwise specified, all average hourly and daily cash wages shown in this report have been computed on the basis of hours and days worked. The average weighted by hours worked is preferable in indicating the average cost to the farmer per man-hour of hired labor used. For the United States as a whole, the average hourly cash wage weighted by time worked was 35 cents while the worker-weighted average was 37 cents an hour. See Appendix B for comparisons and further discussion of these averages.

Table 10.-Average hourly cash wages of hired farm workers, by race and sex, United States and major regions, March 1945

Race and sex	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Total	35	34	28	29	62
Males	35	33	28	29	62
Females	32	48	31	29	56
White	37	33	28	30	62
Males	37	33	28	29	62
Females	39	47	31	34	56
Nonwhite	29	46	33	28	69
Males	30	45	27	28	69
Females	28	27	27	27	27

1/ Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers, since hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

2/ Averages not shown for these classes because there were fewer than 20 workers in each of these classes in the sample.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

commonly used in specialized crops for seasonal work, which is paid at higher wage rates. Therefore, except in the South, these race differentials in earnings probably do not indicate differences in rates paid for the same type of work.

In general, farm labor is considered heavy work. It might be expected that this would put a premium on young men which would be reflected in higher wages paid them. However, in every region, men between the ages of 35 and 44 had higher hourly cash wages than younger men between 18 and 34 (table 11). Men aged 45 to 64 averaged hourly wages 4 cents higher than the young men aged 18 to 34 and only 2 cents less than those for men aged 35 to 44. There is a possibility that workers on farms in ages subject to military service may have included a larger proportion of men with some physical disability, but this can hardly account for the entire differential between younger and older men. It is also possible that workers in the ages subject to military service, whose deferment from military service depended on their continuance in their farm jobs, were not in as good a bargaining position for obtaining higher wages as were older men who were free to move or shift jobs. Youths under 18 earned least of all, but were still paid wages 71 percent as high on the average as those paid men between 35 and 44.

The differences in average cash hourly wages are not as great within a region for groups of workers classified by sex, race, or age, as the differences among individual workers. For the entire United States regional differences further increase the range of variation in hourly cash wages received by individual workers. In March 1945, of all male hired farm workers not employed in crews 22 percent were paid less than 20 cents per hour for their work, while the top 32 percent were paid 40 cents an hour or better (table 12). The point which divided the workers into two equal groups was between 31 and 32 cents an hour. More than two-thirds of these workers (68 percent) received less than 40 cents an hour in cash wages, the minimum set for nonagricultural workers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The proportion of male workers not employed in crews who received less than 40 cents an hour was smallest in the West, only 14 percent. The corresponding percentages were 62 for the Northeast, 74 for the North Central, and 80 for the South. As of January 1944, only about 8 percent of all nonagricultural employees received straight-time hourly rates of less than 40 cents. 3/

In every region, seasonal workers were paid substantially higher hourly cash wages than the average for all regular workers. For the country as a whole, hired workers whom the reporting farmer expected to employ less than 150 days during the calendar year averaged 41 cents per hour in cash wages, 28 percent more than the average of 32 cents for regular workers who were to be employed 150 days or more on the reporting farm (table 13). In the Northeast and North Central regions the differentials in hourly cash wages were even greater. Seasonal workers averaged 61 percent higher hourly cash wages than regular workers in the Northeast and 30 percent higher in the North Central. The lower

3/ As estimated in David R. Roberts, "The Distribution of Private, Non-Agricultural Employees in the United States by Straight-Time Hourly Rates," Journal of the American Statistical Association, December 1944.

Table 11.--Average hourly cash wages of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by age,
United States and major regions, March 1945 ^{1/}

Age	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of	Hourly:percent of
	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:	earnings as:
	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:	Hourly:average for:
	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings	earnings
	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers	workers
	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44	aged 35-44
	Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent
Under 18 years ^{2/}	27	69	32	78	26	67	23	77	57	86
18 - 34	33	85	33	80	29	74	29	97	60	91
35 - 44	39	100	41	100	39	100	39	100	66	100
45 - 64	37	95	39	95	31	79	30	100	64	97
65 and over	31	80	36	88	32	82	24	80	55	83

^{1/} Average hourly cash wages weighted by number of workers. Approximately 30,000 custom workers are excluded, since hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

^{2/} Ninety percent of the hired workers under 18 years of age were 14 years old or over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 12.—Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by average hourly cash wages, United States and major regions, March 1945

Hourly cash wages	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total ^{1/}	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10 cents	2.9	4.9	4.0	2.7	.2
10 - 14	8.1	12.2	10.8	7.9	.6
15 - 19	10.8	10.0	11.4	13.1	1.0
20 - 24	14.3	8.7	12.6	19.5	1.8
25 - 29	10.4	9.7	11.6	11.9	3.1
30 - 34	14.1	8.4	14.6	17.9	2.7
35 - 39	7.7	8.0	9.4	7.5	5.1
40 - 44	8.6	7.8	6.3	9.5	10.1
45 - 54	8.7	13.0	9.3	6.5	12.7
55 - 64	5.4	7.2	7.4	2.1	13.8
65 - 74	2.6	3.9	1.3	^{2/} 1.4	12.7
75 - 84	3.4	3.6	^{3/} 1.3		19.8
85 - 94	1.5	^{4/} 2.6			9.6
95 - 104	.9				5.2
105 and over	.6				1.6

^{1/} Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers, since hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

^{2/} 65 cents and over.

^{3/} 75 cents and over.

^{4/} 85 cents and over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 13.-Average hourly cash wages of hired farm workers in March 1945 on all farms and on farms reporting specified wage expenditures in 1944, by expected duration of employment on reporting farm in 1945, United States and major regions

Area and wage expenditures in 1944	Regular workers		Seasonal workers (less than 150 days employment during 1945)			
	: All	: workers				
	: hired	: (150 days				
	: workers	: or more	: March	: 75-	: Less	: Short-time
	: 18-24,	: month dur-	: Total	: 75	: than	: seasonal -
	: 1945	: ing 1945)	: seasonal	: days	: days	: unspecified 1/
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>United States</u> - all farms	35	32	41	34	37	46
\$1 - 499	24	20	29	27	32	21
500 - 1,999	25	24	30	31	38	20
2,000 - 9,999	39	37	42	41	49	40
10,000 and over	49	50	45	36	57	56
 <u>Northeast</u> - all farms	34	31	50	45	51	51
\$1 - 499	19	16	35	31	40	2/
500 - 1,999	24	23	41	35	47	39
2,000 - 9,999	41	39	55	59	58	2/
10,000 and over	50	50	48	2/	2/	45
 <u>North Central</u> - all farms	28	27	35	31	39	32
\$1 - 499	23	19	34	2/	36	2/
500 - 1,999	23	23	32	2/	39	2/
2,000 - 9,999	36	36	2/	2/	2/	2/
10,000 and over	45	45	2/	2/	2/	2/
 <u>South</u> - all farms	29	27	32	30	30	33
\$1 - 499	24	21	26	26	29	16
500 - 1,999	23	22	24	29	30	16
2,000 - 9,999	30	28	34	31	33	36
10,000 and over	27	26	28	28	2/	2/
 <u>West</u> - all farms	62	59	68	63	64	69
\$1 - 499	57	2/	58	2/	57	2/
500 - 1,999	50	45	64	2/	62	2/
2,000 - 9,999	56	54	62	58	65	63
10,000 and over	66	66	70	2/	2/	66

1/ The great majority of this group are very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews. Although this group includes a small number of workers not in crews for whom the expected duration of employment was not reported, these also are almost wholly seasonal workers.

2/ Averages not shown for these classes because there were fewer than 20 workers in each of these classes in the sample.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

hourly wages received by regular workers are offset by a longer work-week and the assurance of more steady employment as well as by higher average value of perquisites received.

Further division of the group of seasonal workers into those to be employed for 75 to 150 days and those for less than 75 days shows that the short-time seasonal workers get definitely higher hourly wages. Workers employed in crews, usually for very short-time seasonal operations, had the highest hourly cash wages in every region except the North Central. For the United States, these short-time seasonal workers averaged 46 cents an hour in cash wages, compared with 37 cents for other workers employed for less than 75 days, 34 cents for workers employed between 75 and 150 days, and 32 cents for regular workers employed for 150 days or more.

Farmers who customarily use more hired labor generally pay higher cash wages per hour to their workers. Farmers with less than \$2,000 wage expenditures in the year preceding the survey paid their workers an average cash wage of only 24 or 25 cents per hour, during the week March 18-24, 1945. Farmers with annual wage expenditures of \$2,000 to \$10,000 paid 39 cents an hour, and those with wage expenditures of \$10,000 and over paid an average of 49 cents an hour. These differences were mainly due to the differences between wages paid regular workers on large and small farms. Hourly wages to currently paid regular workers averaged more than twice as much on farms with annual wage expenditures of \$10,000 or more as on farms with wage expenditures of less than \$2,000. The differentials were more marked in the Northeast and North Central States, though they were appreciable in the other two regions.

Although regular workers on farms which hire more labor are paid at much higher rates than regular workers on smaller farms in every region, the same situation does not hold uniformly for seasonal workers. When classified according to wage expenditures, farms in the highest group did not have the highest average cash wages paid seasonal workers in any single region except the West. 4/

For each region the lack of a clear-cut correlation of hourly wages for seasonal workers with size of farming operations (as indicated by wage expenditures) contrasts sharply with the marked positive correlation of wages for regular workers with size of operations. On farms employing a large amount of labor during the course of a year, there may be a greater degree of specialization for regular workers in types of work requiring more skill than for regular workers on smaller farms. On the other hand, these March results suggest that spring seasonal work is paid at higher rates than regular work on all farms, except the very largest in some regions, but that small farmers have to pay about as much for seasonal labor as large farmers, and even more in some regions.

4/ Because of the larger proportion of Western farms in the group with annual wage expenditures of \$10,000 and more, the national average hourly cash wages for seasonal workers is highest on this class of farms.

4. TIME WORKED, DAILY AND WEEKLY EARNINGS, MARCH 18-24, 1945

The average cash wage cost to farmers per hour of hired labor used during the week of March 18-24 was 35 cents (table 14). Hired farm workers averaged 5 days and 45 hours of work on the reporting farm during the week, which meant an average cash daily wage of \$3.20 and weekly wage of \$15.80.

The hours of work provided on one farm during the week were lowest in the South, where the earnings per hour were also lowest. One factor making for an average of only 39 hours worked per week in the South was the higher proportion of female workers, who worked fewer hours per week than males in every region. But the use of female hired workers by no means entirely accounted for the shorter work-week for hired farm laborers in the South. Southern male hired farm workers averaged only 40 hours, compared with 44 hours in the West, and 58 and 57 hours per week in the North Central and Northeast. An important factor accounting for the average length of the work-week for hired farm laborers in the South is the practice of using sharecroppers or tenants as wage-hands for only a part of the week. This provides some cash for the sharecropper before the fall settlement and also enables the landlord to operate some of his land with wage hands who are at the same time tenants or croppers and therefore are less mobile than other hired workers.

Even in the West, where cash farm wages are highest, hired farm workers averaged only \$27.20 a week for 44 hours of work. This would be about \$1,400 a year in cash wages, if the worker were afforded employment for 52 weeks. Although wartime wage policy has recognized the substandard level of farm wages and, in order to permit them to rise, has ordered no general control of wage increases for farm workers making less than \$2,400 a year, wartime increases in farm wages have brought the average only to a little better than half this amount in the region with the highest farm wages in the country. In the South, 52 weeks of work at the average weekly cash wage paid farm laborers in March 1945 would mean less than \$600 cash wage income for a year.

In every region, substantially fewer hours were worked per week by female farm laborers than by male laborers. Although hourly cash wages for females were less than those for males only in the West, weekly wages were lower in every region, because of the shorter time worked. Except in the North Central, this was due more to a smaller number of days worked during the week than to a shorter number of hours put in on days when some work was done. Only in the North Central did female hired workers average working as many as five days of the week.

Slightly over half of all hired farm workers not employed in crews put in 50 hours or more of work on one farm during the third week of March 1945, and 38 percent worked more than 60 hours (table 15). Regional differences were marked in the percentage of hired farm workers who exceeded 60 hours a week. In the North Central States, where farm operators as well as hired workers have commonly reported longer work-days than in other regions, 63 percent of the hired workers were reported by their employers as actually having worked 60 or more hours during the week. In the South, only 21 percent of hired workers not in crews had 60 or more hours of paid work on one farm, 40 percent of hired laborers in the West, and 60 percent of those in the Northeast.

Table 14.—Average hourly, daily and weekly wages, average hours and days worked during week, for hired farm workers, by sex, United States and major regions, March 1945

Area and sex of worker	Cash wages earned, March 18-24, 1945 (on reporting farm)			Time worked, March 18-24, 1945 (on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day	Days per week	Hours per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
United States						
Total ^{1/}	.35	3.20	15.80	9.1	5.0	45
Male	.35	3.20	16.30	9.2	5.0	47
Female	.32	2.60	11.10	8.2	4.2	34
Northeast						
Total	.34	3.30	19.40	9.7	5.9	57
Male	.33	3.20	19.50	9.8	6.0	59
Female	.48	4.10	18.80	8.6	4.6	39
North Central						
Total	.28	2.90	16.30	10.3	5.7	58
Male	.28	2.90	16.30	10.3	5.7	58
Female	.31	2.30	13.50	7.5	5.8	44
South						
Total	.29	2.60	11.20	9.0	4.3	39
Male	.29	2.60	11.50	9.2	4.4	40
Female	.29	2.40	9.70	8.2	4.0	33
West						
Total	.62	4.90	27.20	7.8	5.6	44
Male	.62	4.90	27.40	7.8	5.6	44
Female	.56	4.50	21.40	7.9	4.8	38

^{1/} Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers, since the hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 15.-Percentage distribution of hired farm workers not employed in crews, by hours worked during week on reporting farm, United States and major regions, March 1945

Hours worked during week of March 18-24, 1945	United States			North-			South			West		
	Total	Male	Female	North-east	Central	North	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10 hours	5.1	5.0	7.2	3.0	4.7	6.3	6.1	7.7	2.6	6.1	7.7	2.6
10 - 14	3.6	3.7	1.7	2.1	3.1	4.3	4.8	.6	2.4	4.8	.6	2.4
15 - 19	5.7	5.0	14.9	2.7	2.2	8.1	7.0	17.3	3.9	8.1	17.3	3.9
20 - 34	17.6	16.4	33.1	7.2	9.2	25.4	24.3	35.3	8.1	24.3	35.3	8.1
35 - 49	16.5	15.4	30.9	11.7	11.6	18.5	17.0	31.4	21.1	17.0	31.4	21.1
50 - 59	14.0	14.6	6.0	12.9	5.8	16.0	17.2	5.1	21.8	17.2	5.1	21.8
60 and over	37.5	39.9	6.2	60.4	63.4	21.4	23.6	2.6	40.1	23.6	2.6	40.1

Note: For average hours worked during week by sex of worker, by regions, see table 14.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Part-time workers were not very frequent among hired farm workers who were not employed in crews, except in the South. Less than a fifth of the hired farm workers in every other region had less than 35 hours of work provided by one farmer. However, the majority (57 percent) of women who worked for wages on farms were part-time workers with less than 35 hours of work. Only 6 percent of the female hired workers not employed in crews worked as many as 60 hours on the reporting farm during the week.

As in the case of hourly wages, there is great variation among the individual hired farm workers with respect to daily cash wages earned. For the United States, 55 percent of all male hired workers not in crews received daily cash wages between \$1.50 and \$3.50 during the third week of March, but 12 percent received less than \$1.50 per day and 33 percent received more than \$3.50 (table 16). Only 15 percent of the Nation's male hired farm laborers not in crews earned as much as \$5 cash wages per day, while less than 2 percent made more than \$8 per day.

Regional differentials in farm wages, indicated by comparisons of averages show up even more clearly in the distribution of workers by amount of wages. In the South, only 6 percent of the male hired farm workers for whom individual information was obtained earned as much as \$5 per day. In the North Central, the proportion was almost twice as great, 10 percent, and in the Northeast the proportion was 19 percent. But in the West, 60 percent, or more than three times as many as in any other region, of all male farm workers not employed in crews received cash wages of \$5 per day or more, even though the average work-day was shorter than in any other region. In the West where farm wages are highest, only 10 percent received daily wages of \$8 or more and only 1 percent received daily wages of \$10 or more.

Weekly cash wages earned on one farm by hired workers show greater variation than hourly or daily wages, because of the variation in time input during a week. For the United States as a whole, about one-third of all male hired workers not employed in crews had weekly cash wages between \$10 and \$20, a little more than one-third made less than \$10 and a little less than one-third made \$20 or more (table 17). Although the South had a larger than proportionate share of workers with very low wages, every region had substantial numbers. Workers who earned less than \$10 per week in cash wages on the reporting farm were more than half of all male workers not employed in crews in the South, more than a fourth in the North Central, more than a fifth in the Northeast, and only 7 percent in the West. Conversely, 80 percent of male workers in the West made at least \$20 per week, compared with 47 percent in the Northeast, 33 percent in the North Central, and only 13 percent in the South.

The higher hourly cash wages paid seasonal workers in March do not generally offset the steadier employment offered regular workers even within one week. On the average, seasonal workers do not make as much in a week as regular hired workers, unless they get work on more than one farm. Regular hired workers averaged \$18.00 per week, compared with \$13.00 for all seasonal workers, and only \$8.80 for those who were to be employed less than 75 days on the reporting farm (table 18).

Table 16.—Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by daily cash wages, United States and major regions, March 1945

Daily cash wages	United States	North-east	North Central	South	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$1.00	3.8	6.2	4.2	4.0	.4
1.00 - 1.49	8.5	11.7	8.1	10.0	.9
1.50 - 1.99	13.8	10.9	13.0	17.8	1.4
2.00 - 2.49	16.1	8.9	17.0	20.4	3.5
2.50 - 2.99	10.7	10.1	9.9	13.3	2.7
3.00 - 3.49	14.1	10.2	18.9	14.9	5.5
3.50 - 3.99	6.4	7.7	9.2	5.2	4.5
4.00 - 4.49	8.4	10.6	7.0	8.0	11.0
4.50 - 4.99	3.0	4.7	2.9	.8	10.4
5.00 - 5.99	6.7	10.6	5.0	4.4	15.6
6.00 - 6.99	4.3	4.4	3.7	.8	19.1
7.00 - 7.99	2.4	2.4	.2	1/.4	14.9
8.00 - 8.99	.9	1.0	.4	.	5.4
9.00 - 9.99	.6	.2	.3	.	3.6
10.00 and over	.3	.4	.2	.	1.1

1/ 07.00 and over.

Note: For average daily cash wages of all male hired farm workers by regions, see table 14.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 17.-Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by weekly cash wages, United States and major regions, March 18-24, 1945

Weekly cash wages on reporting farm 1/	: : United : States Percent	: : North- : east Percent	: : North : Central Percent	: : South Percent	: : West Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$2.00	1.5	.5	.8	2.5	2/
2.00 - 3.99	7.9	2.7	4.7	12.0	1.5
4.00 - 5.99	8.3	4.9	5.2	12.3	.9
6.00 - 7.99	9.2	5.4	7.0	13.1	1.6
8.00 - 9.99	9.5	8.1	7.8	12.2	2.9
10.00 - 11.99	6.3	6.3	5.2	8.0	2.2
12.00 - 13.99	8.0	9.5	10.4	8.0	2.4
14.00 - 15.99	7.5	7.6	11.2	6.8	3.4
16.00 - 17.99	3.3	3.3	6.6	2.2	1.4
18.00 - 19.99	7.9	4.8	7.7	9.6	4.1
20.00 - 24.99	11.7	17.0	18.0	7.9	10.6
25.00 - 29.99	5.7	9.8	7.6	2.4	12.0
30.00 - 34.99	3.6	9.8	2.8	1.4	3.7
35.00 - 39.99	5.0	5.2	3.5	1.4	21.4
40.00 - 49.99	3.4	4.0	.8	.2	20.0
50.00 and over	1.2	1.1	.7	2/	6.9

1/ These wages do not represent total weekly cash wages except for workers who did not work on more than one farm and who did not have a nonfarm job during the specified week.

2/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Note: For average weekly cash wages of all male hired farm workers by regions, see table 14.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 18.--Average hourly, daily and weekly wages, average hours and days worked during week, for hired farm workers, 1/ by duration of employment in 1945 on reporting farm, United States and major regions, March 1945

Area and duration of employment on reporting farm during 1945	Cash wages earned,			Time worked,		
	March 18-24, 1945			March 18-24, 1945		
	(on reporting farm)			(on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day	Days per week	Hours per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
United States						
Regular - 150 days or more	.32	3.10	18.00	9.7	5.7	56
Seasonal - total	.41	3.30	13.00	8.0	4.0	32
75 - 149 days	.34	3.00	11.40	8.8	3.8	33
Less than 75 days	.37	3.20	8.80	8.7	2.7	24
Days unspecified <u>2/</u>	.46	3.40	16.80	7.5	4.9	37
Northeast						
Regular - 150 days or more	.31	3.10	19.60	10.0	6.4	64
Seasonal - total	.50	4.20	18.80	8.5	4.4	38
75 - 149 days	.45	3.50	16.40	7.8	4.7	36
Less than 75 days	.51	4.30	16.20	8.4	3.8	32
Days unspecified <u>2/</u>	.51	4.50	21.90	8.9	4.8	43
North Central						
Regular - 150 days or more	.27	2.80	17.60	10.4	6.2	65
Seasonal - total	.35	3.20	11.10	9.1	3.5	32
75 - 149 days	.31	3.10	13.80	9.9	4.4	44
Less than 75 days	.39	3.40	10.40	8.6	3.1	27
Days unspecified <u>2/</u>	.32	2.90	9.70	8.9	3.4	30
South						
Regular - 150 days or more	.27	2.50	12.70	9.3	5.1	48
Seasonal - total	.32	2.70	9.90	8.7	3.6	31
75 - 149 days	.30	2.60	9.30	8.7	3.6	31
Less than 75 days	.30	2.70	6.50	8.9	2.4	22
Days unspecified <u>2/</u>	.33	2.80	13.30	8.6	4.7	40
West						
Regular - 150 days or more	.59	5.50	33.80	9.3	6.2	57
Seasonal - total	.68	4.20	21.60	6.3	5.1	32
75 - 149 days	.63	5.70	23.90	9.0	4.2	38
Less than 75 days	.64	5.30	19.30	8.4	3.6	30
Days unspecified <u>2/</u>	.69	4.00	21.80	5.8	5.4	32

1/ Approximately 30,000 custom workers are excluded since the hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

2/ The great majority of this group are very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews. Although this group includes a small number of workers not in crews for whom the expected duration of employment was not reported, these also are almost wholly seasonal workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Although seasonal workers averaged a smaller number of hours per day than regular workers, their average daily wages were higher than those of regular workers in every region but the West. But the greater number of days worked per week by regular workers who were to be employed at least 150 days on one farm meant that regular workers earned higher weekly wages than the seasonal workers in every region.

The contrast between regular and seasonal workers was greatest in the number of hours worked per week on one farm. In the North Central, regular workers averaged 65 hours of hired work on one farm, more than twice as much as the 32 hours for seasonal workers. In the other regions, regular workers averaged from 55 to 78 percent more hours per week than seasonal workers. The average number of hours worked per week on the reporting farms by all regular workers was 56, compared with 32 hours for all seasonal workers.

5. WAGE RATES PAID HIRED FARM WORKERS

Wage arrangements between farmers and their workers usually involve a specified cash rate of pay with or without various items furnished the worker free of charge. The wage rate may be for a given period of time, such as an hour, day, week or month, or it may be a piece rate for performing a specified operation, such as picking 100 pounds of seed cotton. The time unit which specifies the rate, such as a day, does not necessarily mean that the worker is paid at the end of each day or that he is employed only for the period specified by the rate. Many workers paid monthly rates are hired for the entire year and some of them are paid oftener than once a month.

Day rates are the most common type of wage agreement between farmers and their hired workers in the United States. Approximately one-third of all hired workers are paid day rates, one-fourth hour rates, one-fifth-month rates, and the remainder are paid week rates, piece rates or annual rates (table 19). However, the most common type of rate in March was different for each of the 4 major regions. In the Northeast the largest proportion of hired farm workers received week rates (36 percent), in the North Central States month rates (47 percent), in the South day rates (48 percent), and in the West hour rates (61 percent). These regional differentials in preponderant type of farm wage rate reflect differences in the seasonal activity of the several regions in March. In the North, where the season was much less advanced, a greater proportion of the workers were regular workers, who are usually hired at rates involving a longer time period. In the South and West, the greater proportion of seasonal workers is reflected in the greater proportions paid day or hour rates.

In the majority of cases there is an understanding between farmers and their hired workers that certain items are to be furnished the worker without charge by the farmer, in addition to the money wage. These items are termed "perquisites". The total compensation of hired workers who are furnished perquisites is greater than their cash wages. From the second national survey, information will be available on the average value of perquisites received by workers paid at the various types of wage rates. Until the information is

Table 19.—Percentage distribution of hired farm workers by type of wage rate, United States and major regions, March 1945

Type of wage rate	: United : States Percent	: North- : east Percent	: North : Central Percent	: South : Percent	: West : Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Per month	20.9	31.9	46.6	8.8	22.2
Per week	8.8	36.1	7.6	6.6	2.6
Per day	33.6	14.0	24.1	48.4	10.3
Per hour	25.9	14.5	14.1	20.7	60.6
Piece rate	8.2	2.6	1.2	13.5	3.1
Other <u>1/</u>	2.6	.9	6.4	2.0	1.2
Without meals furnished <u>2/</u>	76.7	56.6	49.7	88.1	83.8
Per month	9.7	10.3	17.7	5.8	11.9
Per week	5.7	20.4	4.3	5.0	1.7
Per day	27.0	9.7	12.3	42.3	7.3
Per hour	24.4	13.3	11.0	19.9	58.7
Piece rate	8.0	2.4	.9	13.3	3.1
Other <u>1/</u>	1.9	.5	3.5	1.8	1.1
With meals furnished <u>3/</u>	23.3	43.4	50.3	11.9	16.2
Per month	11.2	21.7	28.9	3.0	10.3
Per week	3.1	15.7	3.3	1.6	.9
Per day	6.6	4.3	11.8	6.1	3.1
Per hour	1.5	1.2	3.1	.8	1.9
Piece rate	.2	.1	.3	.2	<u>4/</u>
Other <u>1/</u>	.7	.4	2.9	.2	<u>4/</u>

1/ Including custom work rates and annual rates.

2/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day; the proportion of workers receiving one meal per day was quite small in every region except the South.

3/ Two or more regular meals per day.

4/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

available, cash wage rates have been further classified into those which carry with them two or more regular meals per day and those which do not. Most of the workers receiving two or more meals a day also were furnished lodging in the farm operator's house or in a bunk house or were provided a separate house.

The practice of furnishing meals free to workers varies greatly by regions. Slightly over half of all hired farm workers in the North Central States were furnished two or more regular meals per day by the farm operator, while in the South only 12 percent were furnished two or more regular meals. For the Northeast the proportion was 44 percent and for the West 16 percent. These regional differences are only partly explained by the greater proportions of regular workers in the two northern regions. In the North Central Region, there is a stronger tradition of furnishing meals to the hired man.

In the South, the great proportion of Negro hired workers account in part for the low percentage furnished meals. In the West, the concentration of hired workers on large-scale farms, which more nearly approximate situations in industry, and higher cash wage levels are factors associated with the low proportion of hired farm workers receiving meals.

Month rates paid hired farm workers who were not furnished meals averaged almost \$100 per month in the third week of March 1945 (table 20). The average month rates in the Northeast and North Central States were very close to the United States average, \$98.60 and \$98.20 per month, while the South had a much lower average rate of \$65.60 per month and the West a much higher average rate of \$151.00. For farm workers hired at monthly rates who were furnished meals, the cash wage rate averaged \$32.20 per month less than for those not furnished meals. In the South the difference was only \$21.80 in the cash rate per month, while in the Northeast, workers furnished meals were paid \$42.70 less per month than those not furnished meals.

Workers hired at weekly rates without meals had higher basic rates than those hired at month rates (without meals) in the Northeast and South, almost the same in the West, but somewhat lower in the North Central. The average rate per week for workers not furnished meals was \$21.60 for the country as a whole, varying from \$16.30 in the South to \$34.70 in the West. It should be noted that these apply only to the groups of workers hired at weekly rates, less than 6 percent of the total. In every region the average weekly cash wages earned by all hired workers were considerably less than the rate for workers paid by the week. For example, an average of \$11.20 in cash wages per week was earned by all hired workers in the South and \$27.20 in the West.

In most regions, hired workers not furnished meals who are paid hourly rates received the highest basic rates of pay, those paid monthly rates the next highest, those paid weekly rates third highest and those paid day rates the lowest. 5/ The United States average day rate without meals of \$2.65 involves

5/ This type of comparison of rates is not possible for piece rates, but special surveys of harvest labor in special crop areas during 1945 indicate that workers paid piece rates often receive more than those paid hourly rates.

Table 20.--Average cash wage rates of hired farm workers, by type of wage rate, United States and major regions, March 1945

Area	: Per	: Per	: Per	: Per	: Per
	: month	: month	: week	: day	: hour
	: without	: with	: without	: without	: without
	: meals 1/	: meals 2/	: meals 1/	: meals 1/	: meals 1/
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
United States	99.30	67.10	21.60	2.65	.57
Northeast	98.60	55.90	27.00	5.40	.57
North Central	98.20	60.50	21.80	3.20	.54
South	55.60	43.80	16.30	2.35	.36
West	151.00	121.80	34.70	4.80	.80

1/ Including some rates carrying with them one meal per day.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

a basic rate of pay much lower than the average rate per hour without meals of 57 cents. This is due in part to the heavier weighting of the South in the day-rate average and the heavier weighting of the West in the hour-rate average. Except in the Northeast, however, the average hourly rate is high enough to yield daily earnings equal to the average day rates with only about 6 hours of work.

Only in the South were there sufficient numbers of female and nonwhite workers to examine differences in rates paid them. Seventy-two percent of all nonwhite hired farm workers in the South and 46 percent of all female workers were paid either day or hour rates, without meals furnished (table 21). Nonwhite males were paid day rates which averaged \$2.20, or 18 percent lower than the \$2.60 average for white males (table 22). Hourly rates for nonwhite males averaged almost the same as those for white males, 38 cents as compared with 39 cents. Female hired workers in the South were paid definitely lower day and hour rates than males. The majority of females paid those rates were nonwhite workers, but their averages of \$1.80 per day and 30 cents per hour were considerably below the corresponding averages for nonwhite male workers.

Table 21.—Percentage distribution of hired farm workers by type of wage rate, South, March 1945

Type of wage rate	Total			White			Nonwhite		
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	: Total	: Male	: Female	: Total	: Male	: Female	: Total	: Male	: Female
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Without meals									
furnished <u>1/</u>	88.0	86.4	97.6	83.0	82.1	91.9	92.3	90.6	100.0
Per month	5.9	6.8	.8	10.0	10.7	2.7	2.5	3.1	<u>2/</u>
Per week	5.1	5.5	2.5	5.4	5.7	2.7	4.7	5.3	2.3
Per day	43.1	47.7	15.5	39.3	41.6	17.6	46.4	53.6	14.6
Per hour	20.2	18.4	31.0	13.9	15.0	2.7	25.6	21.6	43.3
Piece rate	13.6	7.9	47.8	14.4	9.1	66.2	13.0	6.9	39.8
Other <u>3/</u>	.1	.1	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	.1	.1	<u>2/</u>
With meals									
furnished <u>4/</u>	12.0	13.6	2.4	17.0	17.9	8.1	7.7	9.4	<u>2/</u>

- 1/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day.
2/ Less than 0.05 percent.
3/ Including custom work rates and annual rates.
4/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 22.--Average wage rates of hired workers paid day and hour rates, by sex and race, South, March 1945

Sex and race	Per day	Per hour
	without meals 1/ Dollars	without meals 1/ Dollars
Total	2.35	.36
Male	2.40	.38
White	2.60	.39
Nonwhite	2.20	.38
Female	1.80	.30

1/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Wage rates are generally less standardized in agriculture than in other industries. While piece rates for certain operations, especially for harvesting crops, tend to be fairly uniform in some areas, the great majority of hired workers are paid on a time basis at a rate individually agreed upon by the farmer and the worker. During the war, ceiling rates were set for some types of farm work in special crop areas, which cut down variation in rates. In certain other situations agreements among growers have made for uniformity in certain specialized rates. But for many types of farm work throughout the country, wage rates to hired workers vary greatly.

Hired workers paid month rates without meals had an average rate of \$99.30, but 18 percent were paid rates less than \$60 per month and 19 percent were paid \$140 or more (table 23). Variation was generally less within a region. In the Northeast, where the average rate per month without meals was almost identical with that for the United States, only 11 percent of the workers were paid rates lower than \$60 per month and only 11 percent were paid \$140 or more. Workers paid month rates and furnished 2 or more meals a day had an average rate for the country as a whole of approximately \$67.00, with slightly less than a fifth of the workers receiving under \$40.00 a month, and a little over a fifth receiving \$100.00 or more a month.

Day rates paid workers not furnished 2 or more meals a day showed the heaviest concentration between \$1.50 and \$2.50, mainly because of rates paid in the South (table 24). Half of the day rates in the South fell in this range. For the country as a whole, only 10 percent of the hired workers paid day rates received as much as \$5 per day. Other types of rates generally yielded higher daily equivalent wages than day rates, as 15 percent of male workers not hired in crews had daily cash wages of \$5 or more.

Table 23.-Percentage distribution of hired farm workers paid month rates with and without meals furnished, by amount of cash wage rate, United States and major regions, March 1945

Monthly cash wage rate	United States			Northeast			North Central			South			West		
	Without:	With		Without:	With		Without:	With		Without:	With		Without:	With	
	meals	meals		meals	meals		meals	meals		meals	meals		meals	meals	
	fur-	fur-		fur-	fur-		fur-	fur-		fur-	fur-		fur-	fur-	
	nished 1/	nished 2/	nished 1/	nished 1/	nished 2/	nished 1/	nished 1/	nished 2/	nished 1/	nished 2/	nished 1/	nished 2/	nished 1/	nished 2/	nished 2/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$20	.3	4.8			3.1		1.4		1.0	1.0					
20 - 29	2.3	7.0			9.3		6.1		6.8						
30 - 39	4.6	6.7			12.8		6.7		10.8						
40 - 49	5.5	12.6	3/ 5.3		18.7	3/ 3.0	14.2		14.7						
50 - 59	5.3	14.5	5.3		18.3	4.1	17.1		9.8						4/ 8.9
60 - 69	8.5	15.9	4.6		9.0	3.5	22.4		19.6						6.5
70 - 79	6.7	7.9	5.3		7.1	9.4	10.0		7.9						3.7
80 - 89	7.6	5.2	11.3		4.0	11.8	5.0		5.9						7.0
90 - 99	4.7	3.7	7.3		5.9	5.9	2.9		5.9						4.2
100 - 109	20.0	9.2	33.1		8.1	34.7	11.0		8.8						7.4
110 - 119	3.9	.9	1.3		6/ 3.7	8.8	6/ 3.2		6/ 8.8						1.9
120 - 139	11.9	4.7	15.9			11.2									18.6
140 - 159	8.9	5.1	7.9			4.7									31.2
160 - 199	4.4	.8	1/ 2.7			2.9									4.6
200 and over	5.4	1.0													6.0

1/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day; the proportion of all workers receiving one meal per day was quite small in every region except the South.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

3/ Under \$50.

4/ Under \$60.

5/ Under \$100.

6/ \$110 and over.

7/ \$160 and over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 24.-Percentage distribution of hired farm workers, paid day rates without meals furnished, 1/ by amount of cash wage rate, United States and major regions, March 1945

Daily cash wage rate	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$1.00	1.6			1.8	
1.00 - 1.49	9.7			11.2	
1.50 - 1.99	19.6		<u>2/</u> 3.3	23.5	
2.00 - 2.49	23.9		18.5	26.7	
2.50 - 2.99	8.6	<u>3/</u> 4.1	20.2	8.1	<u>2/</u> 7.2
3.00 - 3.99	20.9	9.0	31.9	20.2	21.6
4.00 - 4.99	5.8	13.1	12.6	3.9	20.9
5.00 - 5.99	5.9	22.7	11.8	3.7	20.9
6.00 - 6.99	2.3	30.1	<u>4/</u> 1.7	<u>4/</u> .9	9.2
7.00 - 7.99	1.5	15.9			17.6
8.00 and over	.2	2.1			2.6

1/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day; the proportion of all workers receiving one meal per day was quite small in every region except the South.

2/ Under \$2.00.

3/ Under \$3.00.

4/ \$6.00 and over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Hourly rates paid hired workers show greater concentration about the average than other rates, in most cases. In the West, 69 percent of hired workers receiving hourly rates without meals were paid between 65 and 74 cents an hour (table 25). The greatest proportion of workers whose hourly rates fell in any ten-cent interval was 45 percent between 55 and 64 cents in the North Central, 37 percent between 45 and 54 cents in the Northeast, and 53 percent between 35 and 44 cents in the South.

Table 25.--Percentage distribution of hired farm workers, paid hour rates without meals furnished 1/, by amount of cash wage rate, United States and major regions, March 1945

Hourly cash wage rate	: United States	: Northeast	: North Central	: South	: West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 cents	6.4	.5		14.9	
29 - 29	2.5	3.0	<u>2/</u> 2.8	4.0	
30 - 39	8.5	5.0	7.5	17.5	
35 - 39	2.7	3.0	3.7	5.2	<u>3/</u> 1.0
40 - 44	22.2	7.6	7.5	48.1	.8
45 - 54	8.5	36.9	26.2	8.3	1.8
55 - 64	6.5	26.3	44.8	<u>4/</u> 2.0	1.7
65 - 74	30.3	8.1	<u>5/</u> 7.5		68.9
75 - 84	7.1	<u>6/</u> 9.6			15.0
85 - 94	3.0				7.0
95 cents and over	2.3				3.8

1/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day; the proportion of all workers receiving one meal per day was quite small in every region except the South.

2/ Under 30 cents.

3/ Under 40 cents.

4/ 55 cents and over.

5/ 65 cents and over.

6/ 75 cents and over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

6. SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table 26.--Percentage distribution of hired farm workers by specified perquisite items received, United States and major regions, March 1945

Perquisite item ^{1/}	United States	North-east	North-Central	South	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total workers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With house	38.9	22.4	26.1	54.5	19.1
With lodging	20.1	38.3	41.5	8.8	17.6
Without house or lodging	41.0	39.3	32.4	36.7	63.3
Not furnished meals ^{2/}	75.8	56.2	49.7	87.1	84.4
With house	37.2	21.1	24.6	52.4	18.0
With lodging	1.0	.2	.4	.4	3.7
Without house or lodging	37.6	34.9	24.7	34.3	62.5
Furnished meals ^{3/}	24.2	43.8	50.8	12.9	15.8
With house	1.7	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.2
With lodging	19.1	38.1	41.1	8.5	13.8
Without house or lodging	3.4	4.4	7.7	2.3	.8

1/ In addition to these items, many workers received other types of perquisites. More detailed information on perquisites will be published in a later report.

2/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day; the proportion of workers receiving one meal per day was quite small in every region except the South.

3/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 27.-Percentage distribution of regular and seasonal hired farm workers by specified perquisite items received, United States and major regions, March 1945

Perquisite item.	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
	1/	2/	1/	2/	1/	2/	1/	2/	1/	2/
Total workers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With house	50.3	25.0	25.0	14.0	33.0	1.9	73.8	38.3	40.4	1.7
With lodging	30.1	7.9	46.0	13.4	46.0	26.0	13.8	4.7	30.5	7.0
Without house or lodging	19.6	67.1	29.0	72.6	21.0	72.1	12.4	57.0	29.1	91.3
Not furnished meals <u>3/</u>	66.2	87.6	49.6	77.2	48.7	53.5	81.6	91.8	71.9	94.3
With house	47.7	24.4	23.4	13.7	31.3	1.4	70.0	37.6	38.2	1.5
With lodging	1.2	.7	.2	5/	5.5	5/	.4	.4	5.9	2.0
Without house or lodging	17.3	62.5	26.0	63.5	16.9	52.1	11.2	53.8	27.3	90.8
Furnished meals <u>4/</u>	33.8	12.4	50.4	22.8	51.3	46.5	18.4	8.2	28.1	5.7
With house	2.7	.6	1.6	.3	1.7	.5	3.8	.7	2.2	.3
With lodging	28.8	7.2	45.9	13.4	45.5	26.0	13.4	4.3	24.6	5.0
With house or lodging	2.3	4.6	2.9	9.1	4.1	20.0	1.2	3.2	1.3	.4

1/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ for 150 days or more during 1945.

2/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ less than 150 days during 1945. This group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported; the majority of them were very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews, for whom this information was not requested.

3/ Including some workers receiving one meal per day; the proportion of workers receiving one meal per day was quite small in every region except the South.

4/ Two or more regular meals per day.

5/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 28.-Percentage distribution of farms reporting hired labor and of hired farm workers, by number of workers employed, United States and major regions, March 1945

Number of hired workers	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent
March 18-24, 1945										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1	66.0	28.9	64.3	36.7	80.6	59.1	58.1	20.7	54.3	15.0
2	16.8	14.7	22.6	25.9	12.8	18.8	17.9	12.8	18.5	10.2
3	7.3	9.6	6.6	11.6	3.5	7.6	9.5	10.2	11.1	9.1
4 - 5	5.0	9.6	3.8	9.7	1.5	4.8	7.5	11.8	7.1	8.3
6 - 9	3.1	9.5	1.9	7.8	1.3	6.1	4.3	10.8	5.4	10.4
10 - 49	1.4	10.9	.8	8.3	.3	3.6	2.0	13.5	3.2	12.8
50 or more	.4	16.8	1/	1/	1/	1/	.7	20.2	.4	34.2

1/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

1/ The great majority of this group are very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews. Although this group includes a small number of workers not in crews for whom the expected duration of employment was not reported, these also are almost wholly seasonal workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 30.--Percentage distribution of regular and seasonal hired farm workers by sex, United States and major regions, March 1945

Area and sex of worker	All : hired workers		Regular : workers		Seasonal workers (less than 150 days employment during 1945)		Short-time : seasonal - days unspecified 1/	
	March 18-24, 1945		March 18-24, 1945		March 18-24, 1945		March 18-24, 1945	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States - total 2/	100.0	56.4	43.6	9.5	14.2	19.9		
Male	100.0	59.2	40.8	8.4	14.3	18.1		
Female	100.0	23.6	71.4	19.8	13.9	37.7		
Northwest - total	100.0	76.7	23.3	5.4	7.6	10.3		
Male	100.0	78.7	21.4	5.4	7.2	8.8		
Female	100.0	43.0	57.0	6.4	13.9	36.7		
North Central - total	100.0	79.6	20.4	5.2	11.9	3.3		
Male	100.0	79.5	20.5	5.2	11.9	3.4		
Female	100.0	83.3	16.7	4.2	12.5	3/		
South - total	100.0	47.8	52.2	13.5	18.6	20.1		
Male	100.0	51.7	48.3	12.0	19.4	16.9		
Female	100.0	23.9	96.1	22.7	13.7	39.7		
West - total	100.0	45.9	54.1	4.3	7.3	42.5		
Male	100.0	46.3	53.7	4.3	7.0	42.4		
Female	100.0	31.0	69.0	5.2	17.2	46.6		

1/ The great majority of this group are very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews. Although this group includes a small number of workers not in crews for whom the expected duration of employment was not reported, these also are almost wholly seasonal workers.

2/ Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers. 3/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 31.—Average hourly cash wages of regular and seasonal hired farm workers by sex, United States and major regions, March 1945

Area and sex of worker	All hired workers		Regular workers		Seasonal workers (less than 150 days employment during 1945)			
	Cents		Cents		Cents			
	: All hired workers	: (150 days or more)	: Regular workers	: (150 days or more)	: Total	: 75 - 149 days	: Less than 75 days	: Short - time seasonal - days unspecified 1/
	: March 18-24, 1945	: March 18-24, 1945	: March 18-24, 1945	: March 18-24, 1945	: Total	: 75 - 149 days	: Less than 75 days	: Short - time seasonal - days unspecified 1/
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>United States - total 2/</u>	35	32	41	34	37	46		
Male	35	32	42	35	37	48		
Female	32	26	36	32	33	38		
<u>Northeast - total</u>	34	31	50	45	51	51		
Male	33	31	48	45	50	49		
Female	48	35	63	3/	3/	68		
<u>North Central - total</u>	28	27	35	31	39	32		
Male	28	27	35	31	39	32		
Female	31	29	54	3/	3/	3/		
<u>South - total</u>	29	27	32	30	30	33		
Male	29	27	31	30	30	33		
Female	29	22	33	31	25	34		
<u>West - total</u>	62	59	63	63	64	69		
Male	62	59	68	63	64	69		
Female	56	44	64	3/	3/	65		

1/ The great majority of this group are very short-time seasonal laborers working in crews. Although this group includes a small number of workers not in crews for whom the expected duration of employment was not reported, these also are almost wholly seasonal workers.

2/ Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers, since hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

3/ Averages not shown for these classes because there were fewer than 20 workers in each of these classes in the sample.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

APPENDIX A. COMPARABILITY OF SURVEY ESTIMATES WITH OTHER AVAILABLE STATISTICS

The three national enumerative surveys of farm wages and wage rates in March, May, and September 1945 are a new part of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics farm wage statistics work. There are important differences in the nature of the wage data obtained in these surveys from data previously available. These differences are discussed in this Appendix to afford a basis for correct interpretation of the new survey estimates which have been presented in this report.

1. Individual worker basis for average wage rates

An important departure from previous farm wage statistics in the new surveys is that wage and related information is obtained from the farmer for each hired worker employed on his farm during the reporting week. This permits the computation of average wage rates on an individual worker basis. In the regularly issued BAE series on farm wage rates, the averages presented are based on an average reported for his locality by each of a group of farmers known as "Crop Reporters," who are sent mail questionnaires.

There are several reasons why wage information is obtained on an individual farm and worker basis in the new surveys. An important one is that the farmers' answers provide data on something which has actually occurred - his own employing of an individual at a specified wage rate in a specified week. The farmer can report this more accurately than the level of farm wage rates being paid on other farms.

Another reason for obtaining information on wage rates paid individual workers is to get the distribution of workers by amount of wage rate, in order to show wage rate variation as well as wage rate averages. These distributions provide a picture of the wage structure in agriculture. Similar information has been available for a long time for nonagricultural industries, but not for agriculture.

2. Hourly and daily equivalent cash wages for varying types of rates

In the new surveys, information is obtained on the time worked and cash wages received during the reporting week by each hired worker employed on the farm during that week, in addition to the worker's wage rate. This permits converting any type of rate into its hourly or daily equivalent cash wage so that an average wage can be computed for a group of workers paid different types of rates. In turn, this permits wage comparisons among groups of hired workers classified according to age, sex, race, type of work, duration of employment, etc. which are essential for analysis of wage differentials in agriculture.

Certain technical questions have arisen in the matter of method of computation of these average equivalent hourly and daily cash wages. As in the case of most farm wage statistics, average wages are used both to indicate the wage cost to farmers and the wage income to farm laborers. For the first use, an average weighted by time worked at that wage provides the best measure of wage costs to the farmer per hour or day of hired labor. For the second use,

the ideal average would be one weighted by the workers receiving each level of wages, providing it involved no duplication of workers who work for wages on more than one farm during the week, since the purpose of the average is to summarize the distribution of workers by amount of wages received. Information on wages and time worked obtained from reports of farmers for workers hired by the farmer during a specified week provides the basis for the first type of average. For the second type, namely, an average weighted by workers, employer reports may not be satisfactory, since a farmer's report on any hired worker who worked on two farms during the week is in effect weighted twice as much as it should be, and his report on those workers who worked on three or more farms is even more heavily overweighted. The overweighting would not lead to any bias if it were not for the fact that the workers who are overweighted are usually seasonal workers who work for very short periods at higher hourly wages.

For the week of March 18-24, 1945, the differences between average hourly and daily cash wages weighted by time worked and the average weighted by workers (including the unavoidable duplication of workers who worked on more than one farm during the week) were not very great. The latter type of average is higher because seasonal workers who average fewer hours per week on one farm have higher hourly wages and usually higher daily wages than regular workers. Table 32 shows the two types of averages for males and females by regions. The differences are not great in March, but similar averages for seasons of the year when seasonal work is more prevalent would probably be greater. Also, the unknown amount of duplication involved in the worker weighted average would be greater because a greater number of hired workers are used on two or more farms during a week in a more active part of the agricultural season.

All but one of the tables on hourly and daily wages in the body of this report show averages weighted by time worked, rather than by workers. In one table directly related to age and sex of the workers, and to distributions of wages of individual workers, the worker-weighted averages were shown (table 11). Both types of averages have certain advantages, but the duplication involved in the second type may prove to be important enough in the more active part of the season to mean that its adoption for general use would not be advisable.

3. Types of wage rates

The historical series of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on farm wage rates have included four types which are used in construction of the index of farm wage rates -- rates per month with and without board and rates per day with and without board. These series on month and day rates cover directly 54.5 percent of the hired workers in March 1945 and indirectly an additional percentage (table 19). 1/ In the Northeast and West, the most prevalent rates in March have not been included in the series -- weekly rates in the Northeast (received by 36.1 percent of hired workers) and hourly rates in the West (received by 60.6 percent). 2/

1/ Piece rates are indirectly covered through an instruction of the Crop Reporter to include average daily earnings of piece workers in reporting the average day rate. In March 1945, 8.2 percent of the workers covered in the survey were paid piece rates.

2/ Some indirect influence of hourly rates on the reported day rates may arise in situations where the respondents convert hourly rates to an equivalent day rate. However, Crop Reporters are not instructed to make such a conversion.

Table 32.-Comparison of average hourly and daily cash wages weighted by time worked and weighted by workers, United States and major regions, March 18-24, 1945

Area and sex	Average hourly cash wages		Average daily cash wages	
	Weighted by	Weighted by	Weighted by	Weighted by
	hours worked	workers	days worked	workers
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
United States ^{1/}	.35	.37	3.19	3.12
Males	.35	.37	3.24	3.18
Females	.32	.32	2.63	2.55
Northeast	.34	.37	3.28	3.38
Males	.33	.37	3.25	3.34
Females	.48	.52	4.12	4.18
North Central	.28	.32	2.87	2.97
Males	.28	.32	2.88	2.97
Females	.31	.36	2.34	2.64
South	.29	.29	2.59	2.53
Males	.29	.29	2.62	2.57
Females	.29	.29	2.40	2.30
West	.62	.65	4.87	4.91
Males	.62	.65	4.88	4.92
Females	.56	.61	4.46	4.70

^{1/} Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers, since hire of machinery or equipment was included in their reported cash wages.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Because "board" has not been defined, average rates in the historical series are not precisely comparable with those obtained from the new surveys. Since most workers (86.0 percent) who received 2 or more regular meals per day also received lodging or housing, their rates of pay can be used for approximate comparisons with the "with board" rates of the historical series.

The classification of wage rates for a given unit of time into those with meals furnished and those without meals is only tentative. The criterion or criteria of classification should be chosen which best separates workers receiving a higher value of nonmoney wage from those receiving a lower value. A special study on value of perquisites in connection with the May national survey will provide information for determining the criteria. For example, if it is found that workers receiving a house but not meals have an average value of perquisites more similar to that for workers receiving meals than to that for workers not receiving meals or a house, their rates may be grouped with those for workers receiving meals in computing averages.

Information on the distribution of workers receiving various types of wage rates at different seasons of the year will be used to determine basic wage rate classifications from the new wage surveys. The number should be kept as small as possible, but the group should cover rates received by as large a proportion of the workers as possible. Certain types of rates relating to different time units can be combined for the series if they carry similar basic rates of pay when adjusted for differences in time unit. For example, it is possible that weekly rates might be converted to a monthly-equivalent basis and be combined with the monthly rates; also, piece rates might be converted to an hourly earnings basis and combined with hourly rates. Since the results in March showed that hourly rates were basically the highest of all time rates and daily rates were basically the lowest, these two types of rates should probably not be combined. The March results suggest that the following 4 series could be developed from the new survey data which would cover 89.1 percent of the rates received by hired workers in March 1945.

- Month with meals (or major perquisites) (including monthly equivalent of weekly rates)
- Month without meals (including monthly-equivalent of weekly rates)
- Days without meals
- Hour without meals (including hourly-equivalent of piece rates; these equivalents will supplement such specific piece rate data as are available).

4. Coverage of hired farm workers underlying wage estimates

The wage statistics in this report relate to hired farm workers as defined in this section, with differences noted between the hired farm employment underlying these estimates and other data or estimates on hired farm employment. In these surveys, everyone was considered a hired worker who did any farm work for cash wages on the reporting farms during the week of March 18-24. There is little question about who is a hired farm worker in the majority of cases, but there are a number of marginal or borderline situations.

There are three respects with regard to which criteria must be set for determining whether a person should be considered as a hired farm worker for a given time period: (1) the nature of the work, (2) the type of remuneration for the work, and (3) the amount of work. Farm work in the new wage surveys was defined somewhat broadly, including maintenance and repair of farm buildings and machinery, preparation of farm products for market done on the farm, but excluding white collar employees, such as bookkeepers and typists on large farms, or other skilled workers, such as stone masons or well-drillers. 3/

Persons doing farm work were considered "hired farm workers" if they were to be paid cash wages during the week. For example, if a son of the farmer did some farm chores regularly each day, but also worked for cash wages on one or two days during the week he was considered a hired farm worker. If a sharecropper or tenant of the farm operator did any work during the week for pay on the landlord's home farm, he was considered a hired farm worker. However, if a person worked on the farm, but did not receive cash wages, being remunerated with house, lodging, food products, or some small share of the crops or livestock, he was not classified as a hired farm worker. If a farmer reported that he had some custom work done on his farm during the week, the worker or workers involved were considered hired farm workers and included in the employment estimates. However, if the wage rate paid them included the rent of machinery, equipment, or livestock, these wage rates and wages earned were specifically identified on the schedule and were not used in obtaining averages, because they included remuneration for services other than labor.

Since reports were obtained on each person who did any hired farm work at all on the reporting farm during the reporting week, the resulting employment levels differ in certain respects from other statistics on hired farm employment. There is no exclusion of persons working less than 2 days on the reporting farm in the new surveys, although such an exclusion is called for in the establishment reports of the recent Censuses of Agriculture and the BAE employment series based on information from Crop Reporters. All establishment-reported statistics (including those from the new wage surveys) differ from employment statistics derived from a classification of all the population, such as used in the 1940 Population Census or the current Census labor force series. Establishment statistics on hired farm employment include a duplicate count of persons who

3/ The following instruction was given to enumerators. "Farm work is work done on a farm, on a custom, contract, or other basis, in connection with the production (for home use or for sale), harvesting, preparation for market or delivery to market of agricultural products. Work done on the farm by a farm laborer in construction, repair, maintenance, or improvement of farm buildings, fences, machinery, etc., is to be included as farm work. However, do not include such work as that of a skilled carpenter or stone mason hired to construct a farm building, or the work of a well-driller engaged in drilling a well for a farmer, or the work of a commercial trucker in hauling agricultural products to market. Do not include as farm work any housework, or canning primarily for home consumption. For the purpose of this survey, persons are to be considered as hired farm workers who are employed in the packing or fruits of vegetables in a packing house or packing shed located on this farm or operated by this farmer primarily for packing produce from his own farm."

worked on more than one farm during the week for wages and include persons whose major activity during the week may have been something other than hired farm work, which would mean a different classification of these persons in the population and labor force series. 4/

The employment estimates presented in this report have not been adjusted to the level of any other series. Nevertheless, the estimate of the total number of hired workers in the United States, March 18-24, from the new surveys is very close to the estimate for April 1 in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics series on farm employment based on information from Crop Reporters (table 33). However, there is a difference in coverage between the two estimates, since persons working less than 2 days during the week are excluded in the Crop Reporter series. Other factors involved in the differences between the two types of estimates are the differences in sampling and estimating procedures, differences in the week to which the estimates relate, and the use of an explicit definition of farm work in the enumerative surveys. The employment estimates derived from the enumerative farm wage surveys represent one approach in the work being done by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the current measurement of agricultural employment.

5. Differentiation of "regular" and "seasonal" hired farm workers

Differentiation of hired farm workers into seasonal and regular workers and information on the wages and wage rates of these two groups have not previously been available. The Census of Agriculture supplied information on the numbers of workers "hired by month" and by the day or week, and also information on the total wages paid during a year to such groups of workers. For want of direct information, the report on workers hired by the month has frequently been used as an approximation to year-round hired workers, but it is not entirely satisfactory.

The important criterion in classification of hired farm workers into regular and seasonal is not the nature of the work performed by the worker, but rather the duration of his employment on one farm. A great part of agricultural work is "seasonal." For example, land preparation is seasonal work in the early spring, cultivating is seasonal work in late spring and early summer, and harvest operations are seasonal work, usually later in the year. All of these operations may be performed on certain farms by regular workers who are employed for all or the greater part of the year, while any of the operations may be performed on other farms by seasonal workers hired for only a limited time. Since hired farm workers cannot be classified into regular and seasonal according to the type of farm work reported for one week, the new surveys are obtaining information on the total number of days during the year for which the farm operator expected to have work for each of his workers. The information provided the basis for grouping workers into several classes as shown in the tables, according to the length of time work on this farm will be available for them, regardless of whether they choose to stay on the farm or seek some other job.

4/ Another minor difference in coverage of hired workers is that Censuses of Agriculture exclude persons under 14 years of age, as do the population and labor force series, whereas the new surveys and the BAE series have no exclusion on the basis of age. However, only about 1 percent of the hired farm workers covered in the March 1945 survey were less than 14 years old.

Classification of workers according to duration of employment on a given farm has a definite advantage over asking the farmer himself for a classification into "seasonal" and "regular." The great regional and locality differences in the terminology used by farmers means that direct questions such as "Is this a seasonal worker?" may be interpreted very differently.

Table 33.-- Comparison of Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates of hired farm workers derived from the March 1945 wage survey enumeration with estimates based on information from Crop Reporters, United States and major regions ^{1/}

Area	Enumerative survey :			Estimates based on Crop		
	estimate, March :			Reporter data ^{2/}		
	: 18-24, 1945			: April 1, 1945		
United States	1,633,000			1,660,000		1,520,000
Northeast	147,000			206,000		183,000
North Central	330,000			360,000		316,000
South	863,000			813,000		747,000
West	293,000			281,000		274,000

^{1/} See accompanying text for differences in coverage of the two types of estimates.

^{2/} As published in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics monthly report, FARM LABOR.

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APPENDIX B

METHOD OF MAKING THE SURVEY

The three national surveys of farm wages and wage rates in March, May, and September 1945 made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics were enumerative surveys, each involving visits by enumerators to a sample of 20,000 farm operators throughout the country.

1. Design of the sample

The sample of farm operators for enumeration in the wage survey was selected in two steps. First a sample of 158 counties throughout the country was chosen and next a sample of farm operators in each of these counties was chosen. Sampling methods were used in choosing the 158 counties to permit the development of estimates both by 4 major regions composed of groups of States as shown in table 1 and also for 7 major type-of-farming regions in the country. 1/ The methods provided for representation of the various geographic areas of the country and also for representation of groups of counties classified according to their agricultural characteristics. The 158 counties selected include 101 counties used as a general-purpose sample by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and 57 additional counties covered in the farm wage surveys. 2/

The distribution among regions of the 101 counties of the general-purpose sample is approximately the same as the percentage distribution of farms among regions. As the Northeast and West each have only about 10 percent of the farms of the country, they have only about 10 percent each of the 101 sample counties as compared with about 45 percent in the South and 35 percent in the North Central. Therefore, to obtain satisfactory estimates by regions, it was necessary to add to the number of sample counties in the Northeast and West. This meant that sampling was done at a heavier rate in the Northeast and West, regions in which hired farm workers make up larger proportions of the entire farm working force than in the case of other regions. The 158 counties included in the survey are shown in the attached map.

1/ Wage estimates by major type-of-farming regions will be presented in a later report.

2/ For detailed accounts of the methods used in selecting the counties, see the following mimeographed publications of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics:

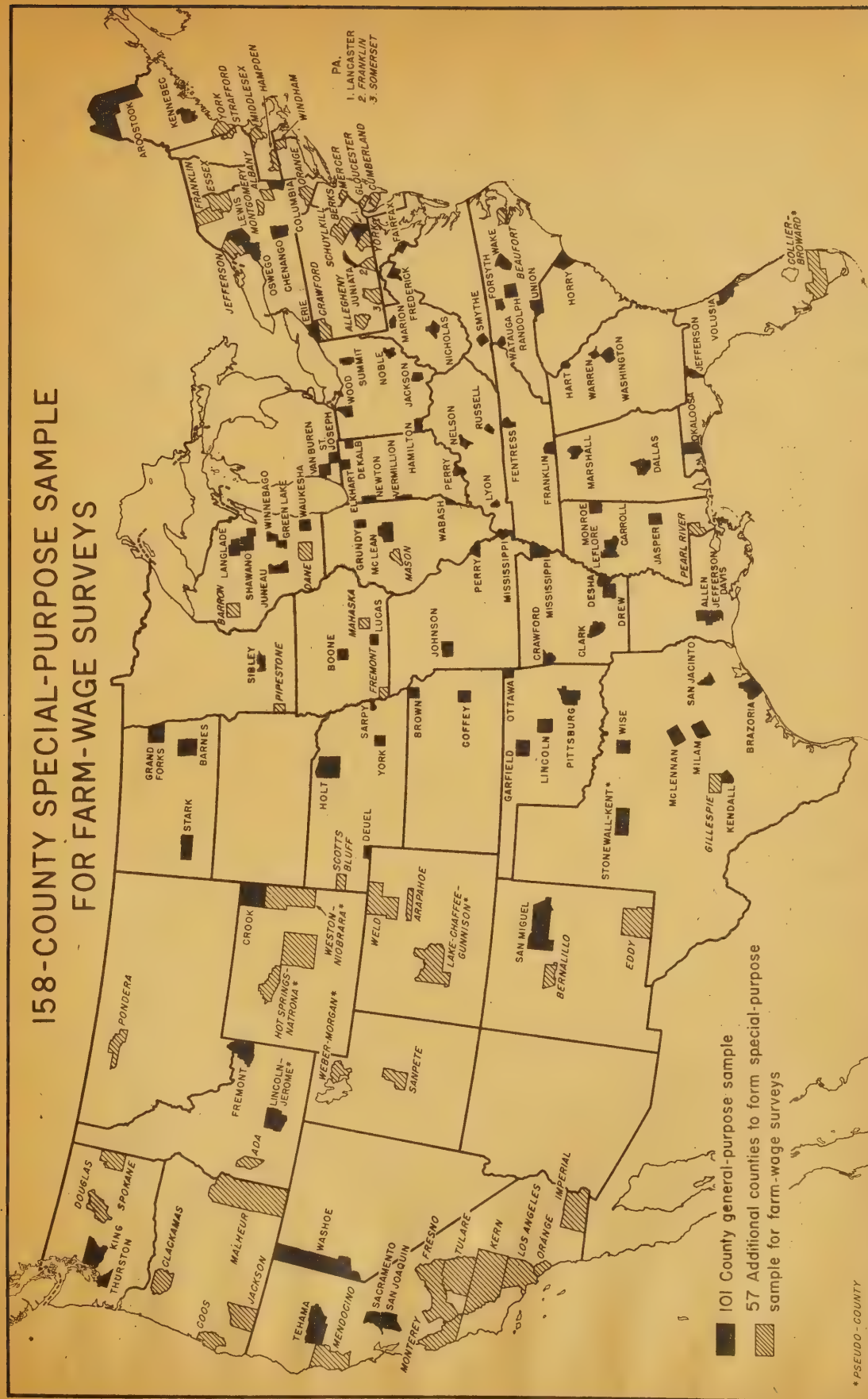
"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics General-Purpose Sample of 101 Counties"

"Technical Supplement to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics General Purpose Sample of 101 Counties"

"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics Special-Purpose Sample of 158 Counties for Farm-Wage Surveys"

See also Margaret Jarman Hagood and Eleanor H. Bernert, "Component Indexes as a Basis for Stratification in Sampling," Journal of the American Statistical Association, September 1945.

158-COUNTY SPECIAL-PURPOSE SAMPLE FOR FARM-WAGE SURVEYS



* PSEUDO-COUNTY

After the sample counties were selected, sampling rates for farms within the counties were determined in such a way as to make the results self-weighting within each major region and to provide that reports would be obtained on a sufficient number of hired workers to afford wage estimates by regions. Then the percentage of farms to be sampled in each of the 158 counties had been determined, the selection of these farms was made according to the master sample techniques. 3/ For each county a map was prepared with a certain fraction of the area of the county designated as sample "segments" for the survey. These maps were sent to the local supervisors in the county with the instruction that every farm was to be included in the survey which had its headquarters within the designated sample segments.

2. Enumerative Procedures

For each of the 158 counties included in the wage surveys a local supervisor was employed who, along with one or more enumerators, visited the farm operators in the sample and obtained the wage information. Materials supplied these supervisors and enumerators included, in addition to the maps, schedules used in the survey and explicit instructions on the information desired and on how to proceed to get the information. The enumerators started visiting the sample farmers on the Monday following the week for which the report on wages was to be obtained. The visits to all sample farms in a county were usually completed within 1 or 2 weeks.

3. Reliability of Sample Estimates

The number of farms surveyed, the number reporting hired labor, and the number of hired workers reported are shown in table 34, along with the expansion factors used in each region. The expansion factors show the heavier rates of sampling in the Northeast and the West, where 1 out of every 97 and 1 out of every 134 farms were sampled than in the North Central and the South where only 1 out of every 332 and 1 out of every 417 farms were sampled.

The number of hired workers reported on the sample farms in each region varied from 995 in the North Central to 2,184 in the West. These are the sample frequencies from which the averages shown in the various tables throughout this report have been computed. In most cases each table containing averages is accompanied by a table showing the percentage which workers underlying each average comprise of the region's total hired employment. This percentage can be taken of the number of workers in the sample shown in table 34 to indicate the number of workers involved in any average. In general the averages have not been shown where the number of workers in the group is less than 100, although there are certain exceptions where averages are shown for fewer than 100 workers. No adjustments have been imposed on any of the estimates shown in this report.

3/ The actual drawing of the sample within the counties was done by the Statistical Laboratory at Ames, Iowa. For description of the Master Sample techniques, see A. J. King, and R. J. Jessen, "The Master Sample of Agriculture, I. Development and Use, II. Design," Journal of the American Statistical Association, March 1945 and R. J. Jessen and L. E. Houseman, "Statistical Investigations of Farm Sample Surveys taken in Iowa, Florida and California," cooperative bulletin of Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Works Project Administration, Ames, Iowa, June 1944.

Table 34.--Coverage of farms and hired workers in national enumerative farm wage surveys conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 158 counties, March 1945

Area	Expansion factor	Number of farms surveyed	Farms reporting hired labor, March 18-24, 1945:			Hired workers reported		
			In sample	Expanded	Percent of total	In sample	Total	Number per farm reporting hired labor
United States		20,082	2,843	715,057	12.6	6,489	1,632,659	2.28
Northeast	96.8	4,695	873	84,506	18.6	1,516	146,749	1.74
North Central	332	5,748	728	241,696	12.7	995	330,340	1.37
South	481	5,825	641	308,321	11.0	1,794	862,914	2.80
West	134	3,814	601	80,534	15.8	2,184	292,656	3.63

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